



The Spire

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
35 Conant Street, Beverly MA 01915

Rev. Lisa Stedman, Pastor & Transitional Minister

Chaplain: Ms. Wendy Linares

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November 2022

Holiday

Craft  Fair

Saturday, November 12

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- ❖ **Area Crafters**
- ❖ **Knit/Sew/Bake Items**
- ❖ **Silent Auction**
- ❖ **Books & Vintage Jewelry**
- ❖ **Breakfast & Lunch Served**

Still collecting donations of books, jewelry, crafts and silent auction items

Organizers:

Gail Goodell: gailgoodell@comcast.net Peg Round: peg_round@yahoo.com

Worship at SCC in November 2022

Sunday, Nov. 6th – Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary (& on zoom)

Preaching: Rev. Wendy Linares

Prayers: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Music: Special Guest Pianist: Chuning Yang, a student of Josh Del Dotto

Sunday, Nov. 13th – Stewardship Dedication Worship in the Sanctuary (& on zoom)

Preaching & Prayers: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Rev. Wendy Linares will be away this weekend.

Music: First Choral piece with Music Director Marshunda Smith and pianist/accompanist Del Dotto. (hereafter called the “SCC Music Team”)

Sunday, Nov. 20th – Thanksgiving Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary (& on zoom)

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: SCC Music Team



Sunday, Nov. 27 – First Sunday of Advent - Worship in the Sanctuary (& on zoom)



Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: SCC Music Team



Light of the World

During the month of November, the Church Spire will be illuminated in memory of *Richard & Carolyn Farley* by their daughter Debra.

Tree of Life

Welcome into God's Family: *Charlotte & Liam Scannell* (children of Rachel & Patrick Scannell) and *Andrew Thompson* (child of Alison & Nick Thompson); baptized on October 16th.

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of *Peter Stackpole* (husband to Sheila), who died on September 28th.

Pastor's Ponderings

"I give thanks to you, oh <Beverlonians>... for all your faithfulness and perseverance!"

I've really been enjoying using portions of the letters from the Apostle Paul during this Stewardship season! As we've considered Paul's journeys sharing the Good News of Jesus, around the Mediterranean Sea, we've read words written to the ancient church that could easily be addressed to Second Church today!

Paul's words are the words that I like to echo back to you because of how true they still are now. As a pastor and someone who cares passionately about Christian community, I too give thanks for the faithfulness I see in you and in Second Church. I am grateful for all the ways that you care for one another and for those in need in our community and world. I rejoice in your enthusiasm and dedication in sharing your resources and love in Jesus' name.

During this month, when we are completing our Annual Stewardship campaign and preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to encourage you in every way to be as generous as possible in both your giving/pledging and in your own expressions of gratitude. Even at times of challenge, (in which we surely find ourselves), the combination of generosity and gratitude will always enable us to rely on God's love and find the abundance which allows us to share love with others.

As Paul repeatedly says, 'I give thanks for you, dear one, and rejoice in the hope and faith and joy we share!'

May God fill your hearts and homes with blessings in this season!

Faithfully, Lisa

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Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Autumn Greetings to All! I thought you might like to try this short Autumn guided meditation by Joyce Rupp. It is from the book *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederker.

Begin by relaxing and letting your eyes gently close. Let your spirit rest...gently let go of busy things in your mind...allow your body to slow down...take a deep breath in and let it slowly out. Do this three times. Gradually sink into a quiet place of ease and comfort.

Move into your inner self...when you are inside, visualize a peaceful and wooded area...There is a trail that meanders thru the trees. Look for it. When you find it, begin to walk on this narrow path...As you walk along, notice that it is Autumn. The air feels cooler...Hear the crunch of dry leaves beneath your feet...smell the odor of tree bark and dry leaves....See the sunlight coming thru the trees...Everywhere you glance, see magnificent colored leaves of gold, rust, orange, and yellow...Look up to see that gusts of wind are twirling more leaves to the ground...

You now come to a widening path that leads to a circle of oak trees...In this circle is an old wooden bench. Go to the bench and sit down. Abide there and let the mellow beauty of the woods penetrate your whole being...

As you sit in the woods, reflect on your life. Ponder the part of your life that feels satisfying and rewarding: the dimension of it that is like the plentitude and fullness of an Autumn harvest, the part that is mellow and fulfilling...

Now, look at the leaves hanging on the branches. Watch a leaf as it breaks free from a twig and twirls to the ground...As you watch, become aware of a part of your life that is also hanging on a branch, about to break free and fall to the ground. See what it is that you need to let go of, what can no longer be a part of your life. Take time to be with this...

What does it feel like to be there among the beauty of the trees with their dying leaves falling to the ground? Is it consoling...Does it hurt?... Is it helpful?...Is it challenging?...Does it encourage you?...

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Finally, you rise from the bench in the woods to go back the way you came. But before you leave the circle of trees, bend down and pick up one leaf....Notice the color and shape of the leaf. Hold it to your cheek and feel the texture of it...Lay it carefully in the palm of one of your hands. Now begin the journey on the path toward home. As you arrive at the entrance to the woods, turn around and look once more at the Autumn trees...Look at the leaf in your hand. Let it fall to the ground. Leave it behind to show your desire and willingness to let go and grow...Now listen for a message that might stir in your heart. What is this message?...Repeat it slowly and quietly to yourself. Come back gently to the present time and place. Take a moment to write down anything you would like to remember from your time in the woods.



As always, please reach out if I can be of support to you. Warmly, Wendy
508 451 7585 wendylinares60@gmail.com



Spirited Women will meet on Nov 20 in the parlor after worship. Please join us for a time of guided meditation as we approach the busy holiday season. All women are invited!

“Give Thanks- Give Food”

November Food Drive for Beverly Bootstraps



These are the top 10 items needed to keep the shelves stocked for those in need.

1. Peanut Butter
2. Boxed Pasta
3. Mac and Cheese
4. Canned veggies
5. Diapers/Pullups size 3-6 and Baby Wipes
6. Cereal
7. Tuna Fish
8. Cooking Oil/sprays
9. Soup
10. Personal Hygiene Items : full size shampoo/ conditioner, soap, deodorant, razors, toothpaste/toothbrushes

Items will be collected **November 6, November 13, and November 20** and may be place in the Narthex.

Advent 2022 at SCC will be Epic!! Please plan to join the Advent(ure)!



“an Advent series that focuses on all the humans involved in the chronological storyline of the events leading up to and following Christ’s birth.”

The theme comes from a line from Mary’s song of protest and praise:

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is God’s name.

*God’s mercy is for those who respect God **from generation to generation.** (Lk 1: 48b-50)*

This new series comes from the minds of *A Sanctified Art*, a group of pastors and artist who work to create worship to share with churches, include some great opportunities that we will enjoy throughout the season! Watch for the following in time for Advent, beginning Sunday, Nov. 27th:

- ◇ A Daily Devotional for adults – (printed and/or on-line via our SCC website)
- ◇ an interactive Advent calendar for all ages – (pick up hard copy or download)
- ◇ weekly “Poetry Prayers” – (to be used in Zoom to Prayer and shared in weekly e-news)
- ◇ a wonderful 56 song *Spotify* playlist of traditional and unique settings of seasonal music, all of which resonates with this year’s theme!
- ◇ worship resources – (to be used in worship!)
- ◇ suggestions for art and activities for all ages – (some will be used in our Advent Workshop on Sunday, Dec. 4th)

A note from one of the series creators:

*With this theme, we decided to simply tell the story, start to finish, without the usual jumping back and forth in the timeline. But what is so beautiful about the Christmas narrative is that it isn’t simple; it isn’t just one person’s story during a single year. It’s the story of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and magi, Elizabeth and John, but it’s also the story of Ruth and Jesse and David and Isaiah, all of these individual threads over centuries woven together into the story of God’s unconventional inbreaking. And the Christmas story is our story, too. The tapestry God is weaving did not stop in Bethlehem. Our own threads, from generation to generation, weave into the narrative of God’s incarnation in the world that proclaims the Advent promises of hope, peace, joy, and love. ~ Rev. Anna Strickland, creative team member, *A Sanctified Art**

Central Board News and Notes:



MEETING MINUTES

The Central Board spent a large chunk of time, including several special working meetings, to discuss Second Church's **Transition Process** in October after the Special Church Meeting September 11 and the Small Group meetings that followed. Besides the regular CB meeting, October's activities included a special Zoom meeting with Charlie Kuchenbrod, part-time SNEUCC consultant that has assisted several New England churches with Legacy Church decisions, and Area Minister Alex Shea Will October 20. You may recall Mr. Kuchenbrod led a presentation at Super Saturday in March 2022 on how to discern whether your church is a candidate for transformation and renewal or transformation to a Legacy Church that the CB attended, and was the basis for much of the material presented to the congregation September 11. **The CB also met to develop the October 30 presentation materials which includes recommendations for Second Church to follow the Legacy Church path.** This includes parallel efforts to address the needs of SCC as a Faith Community while separately pursuing releasing our building as a legacy gift to the community.

Below is a summary of the recommendations at the October 30 presentation, and the Central Board will hold a Forward Chat on November 13 after worship. We hope you will attend and share your thoughts on the recommendations.

1. Establish and empower a Building Legacy Team to explore releasing our church building as the basis for establishing a legacy gift to the wider community.
2. Explore options and timelines for our faith community as SCC moves toward completion of its ministry.

Designate appropriate funding for the costs incurred to establish our legacy.

We are **in need of 2-3 volunteers to be part of the Building Our Legacy team**, Recommendation #1 above, assisting a few CB members with the myriad of details related to our large building, existing tenants, and making recommendations for directing our endowments to other non-profits, subject to Massachusetts Attorney General office's review and approval. In order to continue as a Faith Community after Rev. Lisa and Wendy retire next summer, Recommendation #2 above, **the CB is looking for 5 volunteers by December 4 to search for a part-time minister for 1-3 years.** The Finance Team and Central Board will put forward details for Recommendation #3 ahead of the December 18 Annual Budget Meeting.

Please know that the Central Board has spent hundreds of collective hours in prayerful, thoughtful discussions the past 18 months, and we need your voices, energies and talents to be part of the execution of the plans that we develop together.

Central Board News and Notes continued

Family Promise NSB is in the House – FPNSB staff moved into rooms 107 & 109 at Second Church this month, as a temporary tenant, while they determine their next steps to best serve the North Shore area. The lease at their current static site on Rantoul Street Beverly is to end in the next few months, and Second Church is thrilled to be able to offer use of several unused rooms at below market rates to one of our Mission partners for the last 10+ years.

Notes from the Finance Team:

A few things to note during the month of October include:

- Family Promise has officially moved into empty office spaces (Rooms 107 and 109)
- Our entrance doors have been updated and keycards issued
- Hiltz Waste Disposal of Gloucester has been hired to replace JRM
- A full appraisal of the building and contents will have been completed
- Your Finance Team is beginning work on the 2023 Budget

As we close out October, the Finance Team thanks SCC members and friends for their generous giving in keeping up their pledges and other gifts. As we observed at our last meeting, pledges are right on budget. By the time you read this edition of the Spire, you will probably have received information about the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Please prayerfully consider your gifts for the upcoming year as we move through this time of transition.



Exciting News from our Music Search Team

The Music Search Team is pleased to announce that we have hired a terrific team of talented and passionate musicians to lead our program through this program year! We think of the music program and our new leaders as a bit of a crazy quilt - with wonderful pieces that we're fitting together into one holy whole! We trust you will join us in welcoming:



Marshunda Smith as our Music Director!

Marshunda is known to many SCC members and friends as a dear colleague of our former co-director Charles Turner, and a sometime contributor to our choir and music program at SCC. She is a conductor, cellist, and teacher - well-known and loved on the North Shore and beyond. Marshunda has a BA from the Univ. of Tennessee (Knoxville) and a Master's in Orchestral Conducting from the Univ. of Southern Maine. She is the co-founder and conductor of the Boston area "No-Name Orchestra" and the Cherry Hill Chamber Orchestra. She also teaches at the Waldorf School in Beverly, holds a private music studio of violin, viola, and cello students, mentors other Waldorf teachers in the United States, and is writing her first book.

Marshunda will be with us 3 weeks per month, leading group/choir singing and coordinating music in/for worship.

Josh & Sarah Del Dotto as our Sunday pianists/accompanists.

Josh has become a welcome presence in worship this fall at SCC, and we've learned he has fleet and accurate fingers to go with his smile! He holds degrees from both Miami (OH) and Boston Universities. In addition to being an accompaniment with many area high school groups, Josh has also played at North Shore Music Theater and the Boston Lyric Opera. Josh began his piano studies at the age of 6 years old outside of Detroit, Michigan. Besides classical music, Josh enjoys listening to his favorite bands, most notably, The Beatles.

Sarah completed degrees at both the Eastman (Rochester, NY) and Longy (Boston) Schools of Music. In addition to her teaching piano, she has also worked with several Massachusetts youth choruses as a director.

Sarah began her piano studies at the young age of 5 when she lived in Tokyo, Japan. Her favorite composers include Beethoven, Debussy, Part and Reich, and she loves Disney movies!

The Del Dotto Piano School is a family owned studio located in Salem, Massachusetts. Josh and Sarah have 7 year old twin daughters.

Josh and/or Sarah will be with us most Sundays, providing piano music and accompaniment.

We are very excited to welcome such a great team to SCC and look forward to the wonderful music we will all make together!!

With faith and joy,

The Music Search Team Peggie Morris, chair, David Boynton, Jake Jacobson, Jeanie Murray, and Rev. Lisa Stedman, with Kathy Taylor, CB liaison.



Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
35 Conant Street
Beverly MA 01915



Saturday, November 19

Pick up Turkey Dinner

**Menu: Turkey, stuffing, gravy,
mashed potatoes, vegetables**

Cost: \$7 each

Meal in microwaveable container

1-3pm: pickup at church and delivery

Place orders with church office:

978-922-5722 or parishadmin@beverlysecond.com